

**Minutes  
Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting  
December 16, 2020**

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Tuesday, December 16, 2020. Panel Chair Deborah Coffman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chair Deborah Coffman, Ms. Sonja Wright-McMurray (Zoom), Mr. Phil Baldwin (Zoom), Dr. Naccaman Williams (Zoom) and Ms. Toyce Newton (Zoom)

The transcription of this meeting may be accessed on the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education website at the following: <http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/about-ade/charter-authorizing-panel/minutes/archive/2020>.

**Consent Agenda**

Mr. Baldwin moved, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve the consent agenda that included the minutes from the previous meeting and the 2021 Charter Authorizing Panel meeting schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

**Action Agenda**

**A-1 Hearing for Open-Enrollment Charter Renewal Application: Arkansas Connections Academy**

Superintendent Darla Gardner, ARCA Board President Dr. Dennis Beck and State Account Relations Mr. Bryce Adams, presented an overview of the renewal request.

A question and answer period followed.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve the renewal application for Arkansas Connections Academy for a period of five years.

**A-2 Hearing for District Conversion Charter Renewal Application: Cross County High School – A New Tech School**

Superintendent Nathan Morris and High School Principal Stephen Prince presented an overview of the renewal request.

A questions and answer period followed.

Ms. Wright-McMurray moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the renewal application for Cross County High School – A New Tech School for a period of five years.

**A-3 Hearing for District Conversion Charter Renewal Application: Don Tyson School of Innovation**

Principal Kelly Boortz and Springdale School District General Council Kendra Clay, presented an overview of the renewal request.

A questions and answer period followed.

Dr. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Baldwin, to approve the renewal application for Don Tyson School of Innovation for a period of five years.

**A-4 Hearing for District Conversion Charter Renewal Application: Hot Springs World Class High School**

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Taryn Echols and Principal Kiley Simms presented an overview of the renewal request.

A questions and answer period followed.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Wright-McMurray, to approve the renewal application for Hot Springs World Class High School for period of five years

**A-5 Review of Requested Charter School Data**

Panel members reviewed the data requested at the November meeting. No action taken.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Williams, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.



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Ms. Deborah Coffman, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair